

Message Text

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PAGE 01 VIENNA 02339 101653Z
ACTION OES-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 ACDA-12 CIAE-00 INR-10 IO-13
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 EB-08 NRC-05 SOE-02 DODE-00
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C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENNA 02339

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ENRG, MNUC, TECH, AU
SUBJECT: U.S.-AUSTRIAN NUCLEAR TALKS

REF: A. VIENNA 2277, B. VIENNA 1873

1. DURING A CONVERSATION WITH AN EMBOFF ON MARCH 9,
THE HEAD OF THE MFA NUCLEAR ENERGY OFFICE, AMB. MANZ,
SAID THAT THE GOA PLANS TO SEND A SMALL DELEGATION
TO WASHINGTON SOON FOR THE DISCUSSIONS MENTIONED IN
PARA 4 OF REFTTEL B. MANZ EXPECTS TO HEAD THIS GROUP.
MANZ ASKED THAT THE FOLLOWING POINTS FOR DISCUSSION
BE REPORTED BY THIS EMBASSY:

2. AUSTRIANS WILL WANT TO DISCUSS THESE PROBLEMS
WHICH, ACCORDING TO MANZ, ARE IN LOGICAL, NOT
NECESSARILY PRIORITY, ORDER.

A. WILL THE NEW U.S. NON-PROLIFERATION LAW AFFECT
THE BILATERAL NUCLEAR TREATY? ESPECIALLY, WILL ACTIONS
NOW PROVIDED FOR IN THE TREATY BE SUBJECT TO 60 DAY
CONGRESSIONAL SCRUTINY, AND POSSIBLY, VETO? IF SO,
ACCORDING TO MANZ, AUSTRIA WILL ASK TO RENEGOTIATE
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PAGE 02 VIENNA 02339 101653Z

THE BILATERAL.

B. U.S. AUTHORIZATION FOR SHIPMENTS OF SPENT FUEL
TO COGEMA FOR REPROCESSING. MANZ SHOWED EMBOFF
PART OF A REPORT FROM THE AUSTRIAN EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON
WHICH SUGGESTED THAT THE EMBASSY HAD BEEN TOLD THAT
THERE WAS A POSSIBILITY THE U.S. MIGHT, ON A CASE

TO CASE AND SHORT TERM BASIS, APPROVE SOME SHIPMENTS.
MANZ URGED THAT AUSTRIAN DELEGATION BE GIVEN A
"STRAIGHT" ANSWER ON THIS ISSUE, SINCE IN THE VERY NEAR
FUTURE, THE GOA MUST COMPLETE A GOVERNMENT TO GOVERN-
MENT AGREEMENT WITH FRANCE UNDERWRITING THE COMMERCIAL
CONTRACT REACHED BETWEEN COGEMA AND THE AUSTRIAN
NUCLEAR POWER STATION IF THE CONTRACT IS TO ENTER
INTO EFFECT. IF GOA SIGNS, IT WILL BE BILLED \$150
MILLION FOR COGEMA DEVELOPMENT COSTS. BEFORE SIGNING,
GOA NEEDS CLEAREST POSSIBLE STATEMENT OF U.S.
POSITION, EVEN IF IT IS NEGATIVE.

C. U.S. AUSTRIAN ENRICHMENT AGREEMENT.

- THE AUSTRIANS WANT TO KNOW HOW THE AGREEMENT
WILL WORK IN THE FUTURE IF THE U.S. CONTINUES ITS
OPPOSITION TO REPROCESSING.

3. MANZ, ASKING HIS COMMENTS ON THE SUBJECT BE
FOR USG ONLY, SAID THAT RECENT GOVERNMENT TO GOVERN-
MENT NEGOTIATIONS WERE DISAPPOINTING WITH IRAN. IRAN
MAY AGREE TO STORE SOME AUSTRIAN HIGH GRADE WASTE
BUT WILL NOT STORE AUSTRIAN SPENT FUEL. WHILE WASTE
STORAGE WOULD BE HELPFUL, MANZ SAID, THE IRANIAN
OPTION FALLS FAR SHORT OF SOLVING AUSTRIA'S PROBLEM.
MANZ SAID HE WANTED USG TO KNOW THIS BEFORE THE
AUSTRIAN DELEGATION ARRIVES IN WASHINGTON.
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PAGE 03 VIENNA 02339 101653Z

4. MANZ SAID THE AUSTRIANS WOULD PREFER HAVING
DISCUSSIONS ON APRIL 4-6 IF THAT IS AGREEABLE TO
U.S. SIDE BUT OTHER DATES CAN BE WORKED OUT IF
NECESSARY. PLEASE ADVISE IF THESE DATES ACCEPTABLE
IN WASHINGTON OR SUGGEST ALTERNATES IF
NECESSARY.

5. AT THE END OF THE MEETING, MANZ RESTATED THE
AUSTRIAN DESIRE FOR CANDID ANSWERS FROM THE U.S.
SO THAT THEY WILL BE ABLE TO MAKE WELL INFORMED
DECISIONS ON THE NEXT STEPS THEY MUST TAKE. WOLF

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